

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00305 241006Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /090 W  
-----241036 025295 /13 15

R 240832Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4644  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KARACHI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS MOGADISCIO 0305

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALSO TO USIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN, SHUM, SO, UR

SUBJ: APPARENT SOMALI CENSORSHIP TO TIME AND NEWSLEEK MAGAZINES

1. ADDRESSEES MAY BE INTERESTED TO LEARN THAT SOMALI CENSORS REMOVED FIVE FULL PAGES FROM FEBRUARY 23 ISSUE TIME MAGAZINE SOLD ON LOCAL NEWSTANDS. PAGES CONTAINED EXTENSIVE NEWS AND FEATURE ARTICLES ABOUT DISSIDENCE IN USSR. ALSO EXCISED WERE TWO PAGES OF NEWSWEEK OF SAME DATE CARRYING ARTICLE ON SOVIET NAVY. MAGAZINES COMING DIRECTLY TO EMBASSY VIA INTERNATIONAL MAIL WERE NOT CENSORED, LEADING US TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS ONLY THOSE SOLD AT LOCAL RETAIL OUTLETS THAT WERE DOCTORED.

2. COMMENT: IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR SOMALI CENSORS' SCISSORS TO EXPURGATE WESTERN PUBLICATIONS. IN OUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, THIS HAS BEEN DONE ONLY WHEN THE OFFENDING ARTICLE DEALT CRITICALLY (I.E. TRUTHFULLY) WITH SOMALIA. THE ARTICLE ON THE SOVIET NAVY,  
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WITH REFERENCES TO SOVIET FACILITIES AT BERBERA, WOULD FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY. THE TIME PIECE OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT AND ITS EXCISION MAY REFLECT MORE THE SOVIETS' INFLUENCE AT THE CENSOR'S OFFICE (MINISTRY OF INFORMATION) THAN IT DOES GSDR SENSITIVITIES ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT. IN ANY EVENT, WE HAVE NOT BEFORE WITNESSED CENSORSHIP OF SUCH A LARGE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL FROM A SINGLE PUBLICATION. THE FACT THAT MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS CAME

THROUGH UNCENSORED PROBABLY INDICATES GSDR BELIEF (IN WHICH WE  
WOULD CONCUR) THAT VIRTUALLY ALL RECIPIENTS THESE SUBSCRIPTIONS  
ARE FOREIGNERS WHEREAS THE MAJORITY OF NEWSTAND PATRONS ARE  
SOMALIS.  
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENSORSHIP  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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